

Town of Egremont Massachusetts
Meeting of the Outdoor Recreation Bylaw Ad Hoc Committee Minutes:

Date: October 14, 2015
Start Time: 7:34 pm
Place: Town Hall Egremont

Members present: Charles Flynn (Chairman), Karen Berger, Tom Gilbert, Helen Krancer, Tom Berkel
Member(s) absent: none
Also present were Eileen Vining

Agenda to this meeting:

1. Review and approve minutes of August 19 meeting.
2. Report from Karen Berger and Tom Gilbert regarding discussion of parking, building size, noise, traffic, pollution, light, proximity to residences.
3. Definition of pre-existing conditions.
4. New Recreational uses.

The minutes for August 19th were reviewed and approved, with 4 in favor and 1 opposed.

As requested by the committee, Tom G and Karen met to discuss bylaw that might relate to an operating business and neighbors of an abutting recreational activity to suggest recommendations to the committee. Karen provided a summary of that discussion. She explained that the result of that meeting was a request to the committee to bring in outside council to help draft language that would protect pre-existing outdoor recreational properties can do by right, while at the same time avoiding spot zoning language which we understand is not allowed. Tom G. agreed that was his understanding of this meeting as well.

In response to this request, Chairman Flynn indicated he has contacted Berkshire Regional Planning to assist this committee, and more specifically to solicit other communities and provide technical assistance. Chairman Flynn offered to follow up with Berkshire Regional Planning and to provide their information and/or suggestions at our next meeting. While there was no motion, there were comments of support for this help, and no verbal objection to this plan.

Karen went on to explain that with Tom, we collectively tried to understand terms such as pre-existing and grandfathered, and found those definitions to be confusing.

Eileen Vining was in attendance at this meeting, and was helpful in providing a copy of the existing bylaw and contributed to the committee discussion as committee members individually and collectively attempted to understand the meaning behind the existing bylaw. Committee member Tom B. led this discussion, and concluded that the definition was vague and uncertain, in need of clarification, and saw this as the driving purpose of this Ad-Hoc committee to rectify by drafting an Outdoor Recreational bylaw. Karen agreed with Tom B, and subsequently so did Chairman Flynn and Tom G.

Helen did not agree that existing bylaw language was confusing, and indicated it was very clear. Tom G. explained that the Zoning Board's interpretation was that summer Ariel Park was not a grandfathered use by right. Tom expressed hope that this bylaw will clarify what is considered Outdoor Recreation, and that those activities not be restricted to a specific season.

Agenda for next meeting was not provided. The next meeting is scheduled for November 18th, 2015 at 7:30pm

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30
Submitted by Tom Gilbert, Recording Secretary